

Introduction to Modern European History: Feudal Society



Social, Political and Economic Influences of the Late Middle Ages

- ❑ Crusades
- ❑ Trade
- ❑ Roman Catholic Church
- ❑ The Black Plague
- ❑ The Hundred Years War
- ❑ The Great Schism



Trade

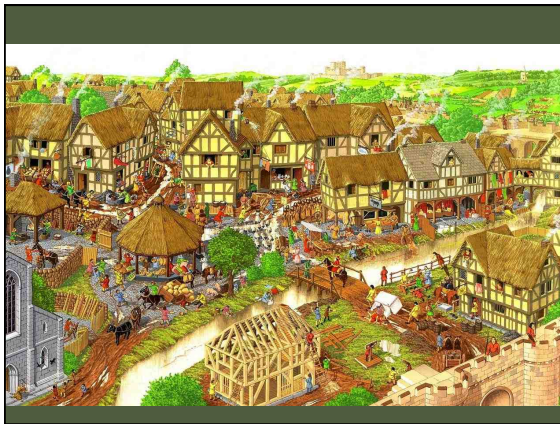


- ❑ Allows for Exchange of ideas
- ❑ Increased Wealth = Increased Consumer goods/luxuries
- ❑ Crusades/Trade create unified Christendom
- ❑ Renaissance of the 13th Century?

Birth of the Town (The Founding)

- ❑ Towns begin to develop around Europe
- ❑ Centered around Churches and Markets
- ❑ Dominated by Guilds
- ❑ Non-Traditional Social Group (Artisan)





Medieval Universities



Oxford University



▣ estab. 1117

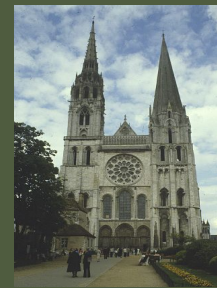


The Late Middle Ages and The Catholic Church

Society in 13th Century Europe

- ▣ Religion Dominates all aspects of life
- ▣ Papacy exerts both secular and spiritual authority
- ▣ Age of the great Cathedrals and Gothic Art
- ▣ Renaissance of the 13th Century

▣ Chartres, France



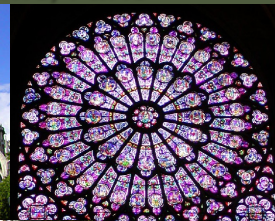
Competition to Build the Grandest Cathedral for the Glory of God

▣ Scotland

▣ Cologne



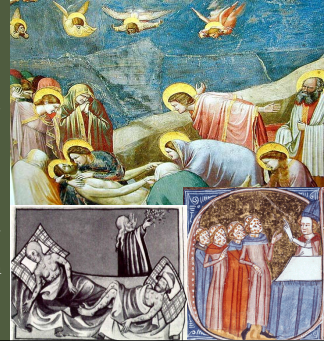
Notre Dame, Paris



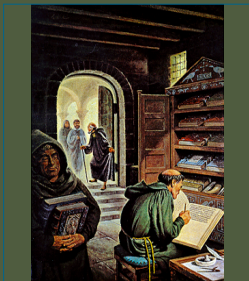


Theocracy of Europe

- ❑ Popes, Cardinals anoint Kings
- ❑ Europe is united in Christianity
- ❑ Political and Religious hierarchy is similar
- ❑ Some diversity in practices and beliefs
- ❑ Church, Good Works, Sacraments, Key to Salvation
- ❑ Preoccupation with death



How the Church "Saved" Civilization



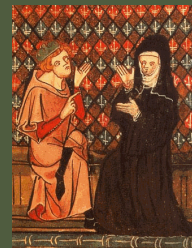
- ❑ Church Monopolizes education
- ❑ Monasteries centers of education and literature
- ❑ Monks study and copy ancient texts
- ❑ Some classic works are preserved
- ❑ Others destroyed because of the cost of paper

Scholasticism

Dominant philosophical, scientific and theological movement of the Middle Ages

- ❑ Efforts of European intellectuals to reconcile **reason and faith**

- ❑ Reaction to contact with Muslim and reintroduction of Classical literature
- ❑ Depended much on the work of Aristotle
- ❑ **Peter Abelard** – French priest – 1079 –1142
- ❑ Lectures at cathedral school of Notre Dame in Paris
- ❑ *Sic et Non* – Yes and No
- ❑ collected statements from the Bible and Church leaders which contradicted each other
- ❑ Believed that reason could resolve the contradictions
- ❑ Church under Bernard of Clairvaux charged Abelard with heresy



Scholasticism

St. Anselm – Benedictine monk – 1079 – 1142

- ❑ Belief - no conflict separating man's spiritual & rational natures
- ❑ Joined reason and faith in credo – "I believe in order to understand"

Thomas Aquinas, Dominican, 1225 – 1274

- ❑ Made every effort to prove that faith and reason could be reconciled
- ❑ Believed in **two orders of truth**
 - Reason – could demonstrate propositions such as the existence of God
 - Faith – things like the nature of the Trinity must be accepted
 - Universe as a great chain of being
 - Omnipotent God called everything into being, with everything had its place
 - Man occupied a place midway between the material and the spiritual
 - Reason gave human beings the power to understand *some* things
- ❑ Two great works – *Summa contra Gentiles* & *Summa Theologica*



Scholasticism and Science

Scientific Method – Europeans started to systematically observe and investigate the physical universe

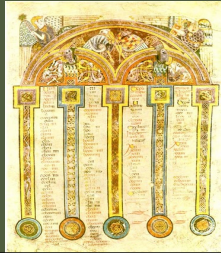
- ❑ Spurred by newly translated Greek and Arabic sources
- ❑ **Robert Grosseteste** – English bishop and scholar
- ❑ Aristotelian
- ❑ Developed an early system of experimental methodology with an emphasis on observation, hypothesis and verification
- ❑ Tried to demonstrate that the world was round
- ❑ Experiments on the refraction of light
- ❑ **Roger Bacon** – 1214 1294
- ❑ Looked for practical applications - telescope
- ❑ Argued that observation should guide reason



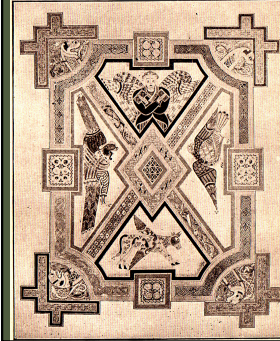
Art and Literature



- ▣ Christian focus
- ▣ Very little realism



Some Ancient Symbolism



- ▣ Blend of Ancient Pagan Traditions and Christianity
- ▣ 13th and 14th Century Papacy tries to tighten the reigns on ancient symbology

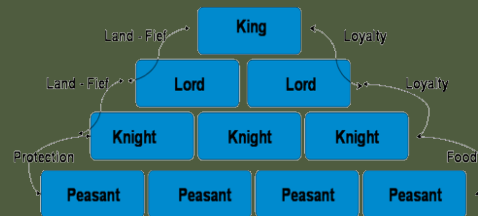
Feudalism: Parallel Pyramids

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▣ <u>State</u> | ▣ <u>Church</u> |
| ▣ King | ▣ Pope |
| ▣ Lords | ▣ Cardinals |
| ▣ Lesser Lords | ▣ Arch Bishop |
| ▣ Knights | ▣ Bishop |
| ▣ Artisans | ▣ Clergy and Religious Orders |
| ▣ Peasantry, Serfs | ▣ Parishioners |



Social Relations

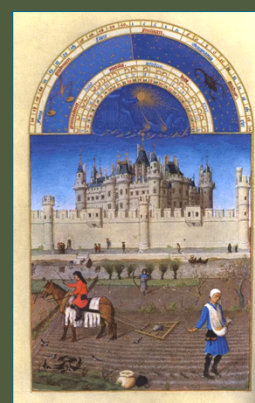
A political, economic, and social system based on loyalty and military service.



Social History



- | | |
|--|---|
| ▣ <u>Peasants</u> | ▣ <u>Women and Family</u> |
| ▣ Agrarian society | ▣ High infant Mortality |
| ▣ Very little opportunity for social mobility | ▣ 20% of Women die in child birth |
| ▣ Labor/product is currency | ▣ Family works together to farm small plots of land |
| ▣ Peasants are producers and consumers | ▣ After Marriage women are husband's property |
| ▣ Life is short, days are long, goal salvation | ▣ No rights to inheritance |
| ▣ Service for Protection | ▣ Education takes place in the home |



Medieval Castle



Chivalry

Ideals associated with knighthood

- French word *chevalier* which means "knight"

Honor is the foundational and guiding principle

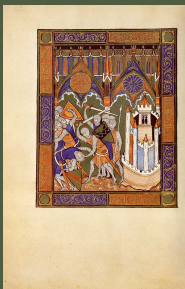
Three basic areas

1. Relation to countrymen and fellow Christians
 - mercy, courage, valor, fairness, protection of the weak and poor, servant-hood to lord
 - warrior chivalry - chief duty is to his lord
2. Relation to God
 - being faithful to the church, being the champion of good against evil, being generous and obeying God above all
3. Relation to women
 - idea that the knight is to serve a lady
 - general gentleness and graciousness to all women
 - Courtly love



Chivalric Codes

- Thou shalt believe all that the Church teaches, and shalt observe all its directions.
- Thou shalt defend the Church.
- Thou shalt respect all weaknesses, and shalt constitute thyself the defender of them.
- Thou shalt love the country in which thou wast born.
- Thou shalt not recoil before thine enemy.
- Thou shalt make war against the Infidel without cessation, and without mercy.
- Thou shalt perform scrupulously thy feudal duties, if they be not contrary to the laws of God.
- Thou shalt never lie, and shall remain faithful to thy pledged word.
- Thou shalt be generous, and give largess to everyone.
- Thou shalt be everywhere and always the champion of the Right and the Good against Injustice and Evil.



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Jews in Western Europe

Jews very persecuted during Middle Ages

The Church prohibited Christians from lending money at interest - usury

- Jews became the Empire's financial agents

Urban II's call for crusade in 1095 opened a period of persecution

The first pogrom against the Jews took place during this period

1096 - 1215 - numerous persecutions of Jews

1103 - Henry IV denied Jews the right to bear arms

- Only freemen could bear arms so Jews were considered as "unfree"

1215 - Fourth Lateran Council prohibited Jews from holding office

- Designated certain clothes to wear as well as areas in which Jews were allowed to live - ghettos

1306 - Jews were expelled from France

Heretical Movements

Mass movements that questioned church doctrines

- Beginning in the 11th century
- Originated in the newly urbanized areas such as southern France and northern Italy
- Church reaction was to eliminate some and integrate others

Catharism - movement with Gnostic elements

- Also called Albigensians
- Dualists believed that historical events were the result of struggle between a good & evil
- The Albigensian Crusade launched by Pope Innocent III in 1209
- Brutal massacres - "Kill them all; God will know his own"

Waldensians

- Valdes of Lyons
- Opposed to corruption of the Church

Inquisition established in 13th century

- Persecution and torture to identify heresy



The Black Plague

Preconditions for Plague

What was the Plague?

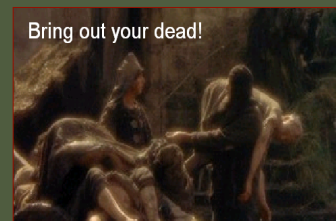
The Spread of the Plague

Life During the Plague

Impact

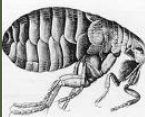


Bring out your dead!



Preconditions for Plague

- ❑ Famine (crop failure), Lowered Immune System
- ❑ Population growth (Over-Population?)
- ❑ Urbanization + Dense living conditions
- ❑ International trade



It is believed that the Plague was brought over by rats on trade routes.



What was the Plague

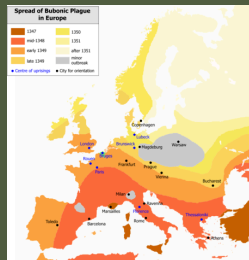


- ❑ Bubonic Plague "Black Death"
- ❑ Plague is caused by the bacteria, *Yersinia pestis*. The bacteria lives in the stomach of fleas
- ❑ Symptoms of the Plague:
 - Swelling of lymph nodes.
 - Fever of 101-105
 - Black blotches called "buboes" formed on body, swelling and oozing puss.
- ❑ Death within 4-7 days of being affected.



The Spread of the Plague

- ❑ Came to Europe in 1347.
- ❑ Spread extremely quickly.
 - Rats to Fleas to Humans.
- ❑ Mainly afflicted areas along trade routes.



Life during the Plague

- ❑ Obsession with death and dying.
 - Europe = *danse macabre*
- ❑ No explanation / no remedies
- ❑ Different reactions amongst population:
 - Repented sins, thought God was punishing them. (Flagellants)
 - Gave themselves over to sin and promiscuity.
 - Left cities, went to country side to seek seclusion.

Procession of the Flagellants



Would walk from village to village whipping themselves and others as a sign of repentance



Impact

- ❑ 1/3-1/2 of European population dies.
- ❑ Decrease in population increases need for laborers, leads to increase in wages.
- ❑ Peasant revolts
- ❑ Cities rebound and prosper.
- ❑ Results in growing middle class.
- ❑ Artisans organize into guilds.
 - Guilds gain political power.



Peasants in the field

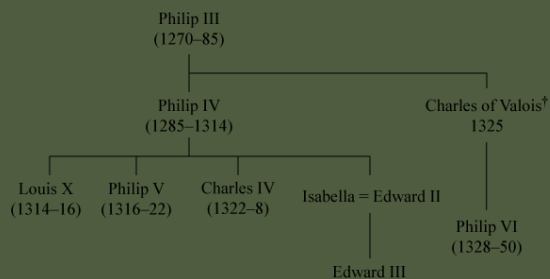
The Hundred Years' War 1337-1453



Causes of the War

- ❑ England
- ❑ English rights to French territory (Edward III)
- ❑ Economically vital resources in region
- ❑ Flanders vital to wool trade (Wants independence)
- ❑ English rights to French throne
- ❑ 4 million population
- ❑ France
- ❑ Internal disunity and conflict
- ❑ Lack of centralization
- ❑ French Navy attacking English Ports
- ❑ Phillip VI reclaims Gascony (English King Vassal)
- ❑ 17 million population

French Monarchy Family Tree



Progress of the War: Stage 1

- ❑ Early advantage for France (most knights in Europe)
- ❑ Dominate English Channel
- ❑ Early English invasions fail (bankrupts England)
- ❑ Tide Begins to Turn
- ❑ French navy annihilated in 1340



Stage 1 Continued...



- ❑ The Black Prince, Edward son of Edward III
- ❑ Battle of Crecy 1347- English longbowmen crush French
- ❑ Black Death ravages Europe 1348 (lull in fighting)
- ❑ French King, John II, captured at the Battle of Poitiers
- ❑ French Government collapses- Call for the Estates General
- ❑ Rise of the Jacquerie
- ❑ Peace of Bretigny-Calais
- ❑ England controls half of France

Stage 2- 1369-1422

- ❑ Charles V regains some lost territory but went MAD
- ❑ England struggles with internal conflicts
- ❑ England regains supremacy at Battle of Agincourt
- ❑ Treaty of Troyes establishes Henry IV as heir to French throne- takes throne in 1422

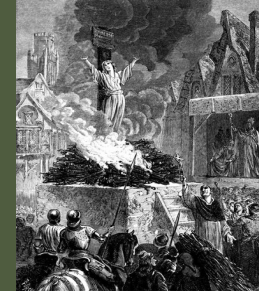


Stage 3



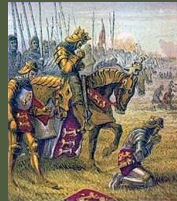
Stage 3

- ❑ Joan of Arc appeals to Charles VII
- ❑ Leads French army to repeated victories
- ❑ Rise of French nationalism
- ❑ Charles sees Joan as a threat and has her executed as a heretic
- ❑ 1453 War ends- Britain retains only Calais



Timeline

- 1340- English Victory at the Bay of Sluys
- 1346- English Victory at Crecy and seizure of Calais
- 1347- Black Death Strikes
- 1356- English Victory at Poitiers
- 1358- Jacquerie disrupts France
- 1360- Peace of Bretigny-Calais recognizes English holdings in France
- 1381- English Peasants Revolt
- 1415- English Victory at Agincourt
- 1420- Treaty of Troyes
- 1422- Henry VI proclaimed King of both England and France
- 1429- Joan of Arc leads French to victory at Orleans
- 1431- Joan of Arc executed as a heretic
- 1453- War Ends; English retain only Calais



Impact

- ❑ Begins process of political centralization in Europe
- ❑ Significant military evolution (Gunpowder)
- ❑ Early rise of **nationalistic** feelings
- ❑ First popular challenges to secular and spiritual authority
- ❑ End of English claims to France

The Challenges to the Papacy throughout the 14th Century



The Thirteenth-Century Papacy

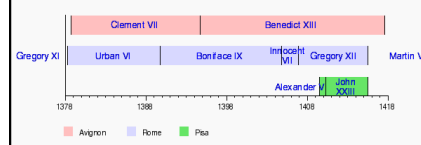
- ❑ The Roman Catholic Church was the most important institution in the feudal world
- ❑ Controlled both the political and religious institutions
- ❑ Conflict arises between the temporal and spiritual domains as monarchs began to centralize their power taking it away from the church

The Challenges to the Papacy

- ❑ **Unam Sanctam (1302)**
 - ❑ Pope Boniface issued this bull and it declared that temporal authority was 'subject' to the spiritual power of the church.
- ❑ **Results:**
 - monarchs begin to rule over the religious institutions
 - Boniface is forced to repeal the Unam Sanctam which shows a loss of papal power
- ❑ **Avignon Papacy (1309-1377)**
 - ❑ Under strong French influence
 - ❑ Seven popes resided in Avignon which Pope John XXII was the most powerful
- ❑ **Result:**
 - The Western Schism
 - Groups of people begin to act out against the Roman Catholic Church
 - Ex: Lollards in England and Hussites in Bohemia

The Western Schism (1378-1417)

- ❑ Pope Urban VI and Clement VII
- ❑ Conciliar Theory
 - ❑ Urban VI was in power until "the thirteen" (most of which were French) elected Clement VII causing conflicts
 - ❑ doctrine that asserted the superiority under certain circumstances of the general councils over the church
 - ❑ Finally Martin V is elected as the one and only Pope



Results of The Western Schism

- ❑ Some people begin to question the church's spiritual and secular authority
- ❑ Magistrates and city councils reformed and regulated religious life as secular control increased
- ❑ Martin V was made Pope by the Council of Constance which ended The Great Schism
- ❑ Separation of secular and spiritual authority

Sowing the Seeds Of Change: Causes of the Renaissance

- ❑ New social, political and economic opportunity
- ❑ Increased centralization of political power, foundations of the Nation-State
- ❑ Intercontinental trade and earliest stages of global economy (Capitalism)
- ❑ Exchange of ideas
- ❑ Weakening Papacy, Challenges to Church Authority

